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Caprio's staff takes pay 'holiday'

With Rhode Island facing a significant budget deficit that has already prompted the governor to enact a plan to lay off state employees, General Treasurer Frank Caprio announced that he will be initiating a major seasonal savings plan for members of his management team.

20 Treasury Department managers will forego a week's pay over the next 18 months as part of Caprio's ongoing effort to save money. The move is expected to save approximately \$50,000, and Caprio believes it is an important step meant to highlight how important it is for all state departments and municipal government entities to take whatever actions they can to cut costs.

"It would have been very easy for our managers to say that the markets and banking system are open every day and our office has to be open every

day, so our work is essential and we can't take part in this kind of program," said Caprio. "But our team has come together to recognize that we all need to lead by example and do everything we can to cut costs at a time when the state is in a serious budget crisis. I would like to see all state departments and municipal governments seriously consider such action."

The Treasury Department had already laid off two employees in response to the state budget crisis and submitted a fiscal year 2009 budget \$5.3 million, or 14 percent, less than the previous fiscal year's revised request. In addition to personnel savings, Caprio reduced consultant expenditures by 18 percent thanks in part to aggressive management of paid financial consultants to make sure their charges are competitive with other providers of

these specialized services.

In addition to the savings generated within the Treasury budget, Caprio said that his office is constantly monitoring the state's debt for refinancing opportunities. During the special legislative session last October, Caprio asked the General Assembly to authorize a refunding of Certificates of Participation, which resulted in a savings to the state of \$2,962,510.27.

"As General Treasurer, I have a responsibility to the people of Rhode Island to oversee the state's financial condition and this responsibility extends to running the Treasury Department as efficiently as possible," said Caprio. "I will continue to look at different steps the Treasury can take to save money while continuing to provide the highest level of service possible to our citizens."